Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

16 October 2006

NOAA Ocean Service

NOAA Satellites and Information Service

Last bulletin: October 12, 2006

Conditions Report

A harmful algal bloom has been identified from Pinellas to central Collier Counties. In northern Pinellas, no impacts are expected today and patchy very low impacts are possible Tuesday to Thursday. In southern Pinellas, southern Charlotte, and northern Lee Counties, patch very low impacts are possible today and patchy low impacts are possible Tuesday to Thursday. In Manatee, northern Charlotte, southern Lee, and northern Collier Counties, patchy very low impacts are possible today and moderate impacts are possible Tuesday to Thursday. In Sarasota County, patchy low impacts are possible today and high impacts are possible Tuesday to Thursday.

Analysis

The harmful algal bloom persists from Pinellas to central Collier Counties and far offshore Monroe County. The results of a transport model indicate only a very slight net northward movement of the bloom since the last bulletin (10-15 km southward movement followed by 18-30 km northward movement since 10/14). Present imagery (10/15) is obscured by clouds making the analysis of northern portions of the bloom difficult; however, elevated chlorophyll levels (>25 μg/L) are visible at 26°38'4''N 82°19'50''W west of Mondongo Island in Lee County and 26°19'46''N 81°58'21''W west of the Lee County/Collier County border. The most recent samples indicate that *K. brevis* is present at high concentrations offshore Sarasota County, at medium concentrations offshore southern Lee, Collier, and Manatee Counties, and at low a concentrations offshore Charlotte County (FWRI; 10/11-12). Recent sample results from the Florida Keys in Monroe County have not present levels of *K. brevis*. Reports of respiratory irritation in Collier County have been received (FWRI; 10/12).

Offshore winds today will decrease impacts at the coast; while onshore winds Tuesday to Thursday will increase impacts at the coast. No significant intensification of the bloom is expected. Bloom will maintain location at the coast.

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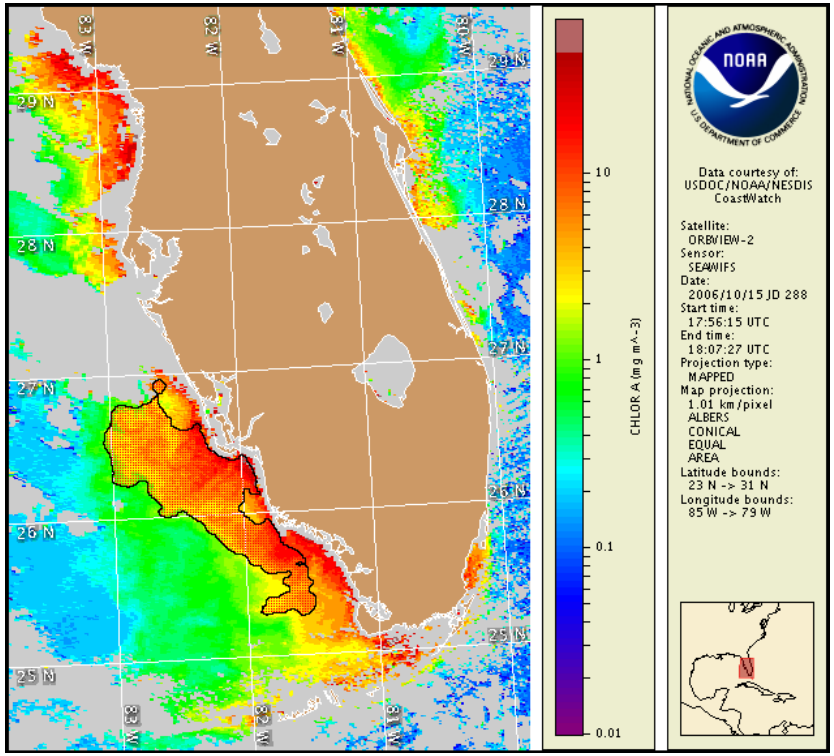
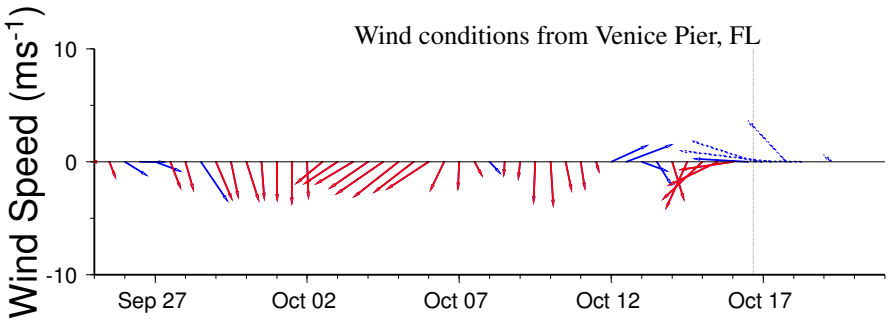
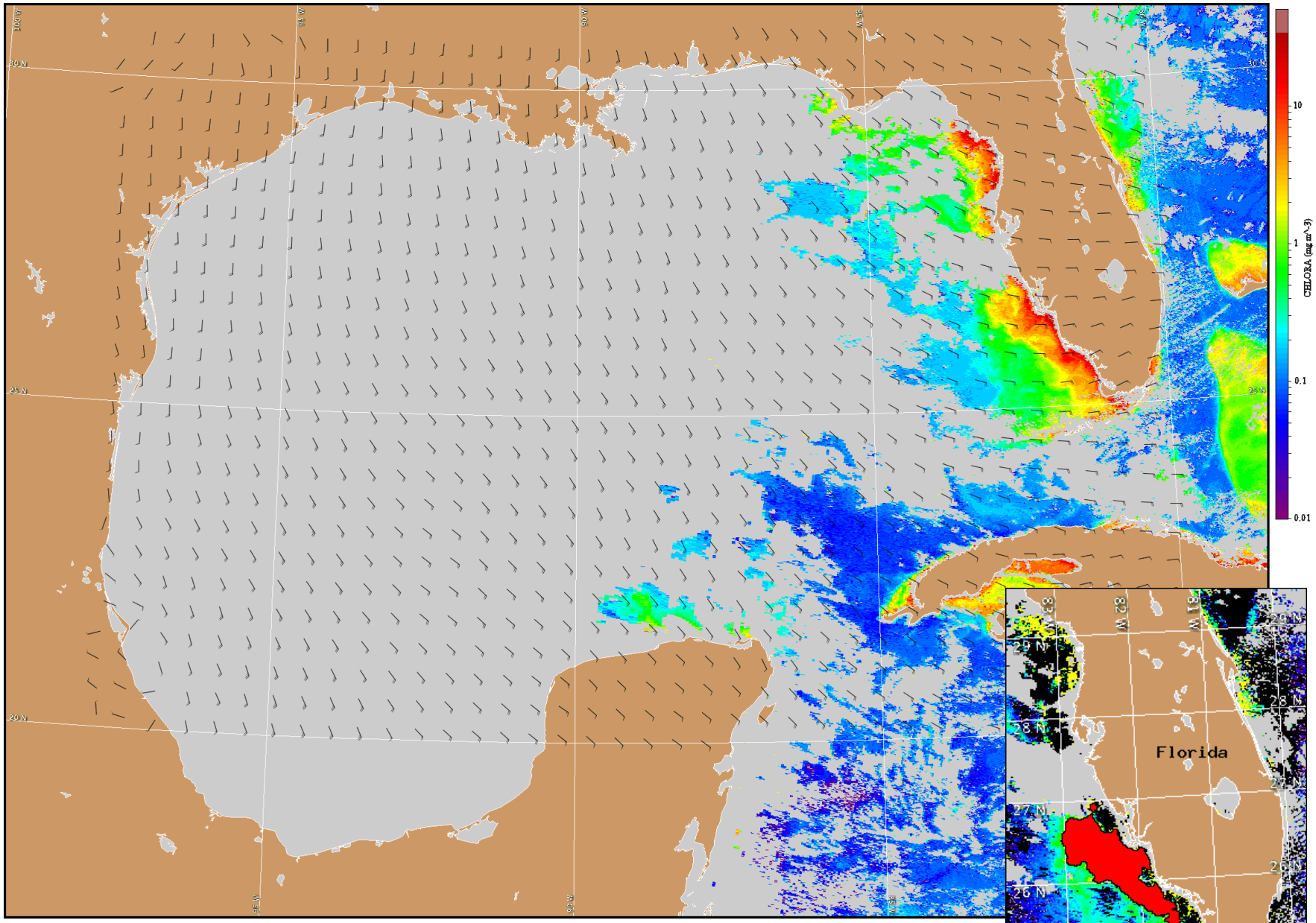


Satellite chlorophyll image with possible HAB areas shown by red polygon(s). Cell concentration categories and corresponding cell count values from Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute. For a key to the cell concentration descriptions, visit http://research.myfwc.com.



Wind speed and direction are averaged over 12 hours from buoy measurements. Length of line indicates speed; angle indicates direction. Red indicates that the wind direction favors upwelling near the coast. Values to the left of the dotted vertical line are measured values; values to the right are forecasts.

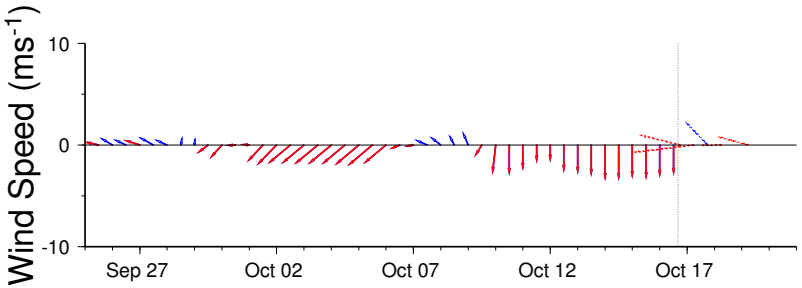
SW Florida: Offshore winds today (15-20 kts, 8-10 m/s). Onshore winds on Tuesday (10-20 kts, 5-10 m/s), Wednesday (10 kts, 5 m/s), and Thursday (5-10 kts, 3-5 m/s).



Satellite chlorophyll image and forecast winds for October 17, 2006 06Z.

Verifi ed HAB areas shown in red. Other bloom areas shown in yellow (see p. 1 analysis for interpretation).

Wind conditions from Naples, FL



Wind conditions from Clearwater Beach, FL